

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Hall Mfg., Inc.

Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

Hall Manufacturing Doubles Capacity While Reducing Space Requirements

Client Profile:

Hall Manufacturing, Inc. is a rotary mower and parts manufacturer. The company currently employs approximately 100 people at its facility in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Situation:

After successfully expanding into new markets with the help of a consultant, Hall Manufacturing (Hall)'s owner began to consider a building expansion. Unfortunately, the cost projections were overwhelming; the company's financial resources are generally expended by both the annual purchase of materials and the fabrication of subassemblies prior to the receipt of orders. The consultant suggested that Hall work with the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network (the Network), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to find a more affordable solution to its space constraints. At their initial meeting, the Network told Hall about lean methodologies that could help maximize the existing space. Hall asked the Network to lead a lean implementation at its facility.

Solution:

The Network met with key Hall managers to formulate a plan. Over the next year, Hall invested \$10,740 and 257 training hours in teaching its employees the concepts and methods of lean manufacturing. Once training had been completed, Hall employees formed teams (guided by Network staff) to implement the techniques they had learned. The Network led Hall in a value stream mapping exercise to identify inefficiencies and waste in every operation. By reducing inventory, doubling capacity, eliminating waste, and improving space utilization, Hall has been able to stay in its facility and still meet increasing production levels.

Results:

- Doubled plant capacity.
- Improved inventory turns from 1 to approximately 25.
- Reduced floor space requirements by approximately 25 percent.
- Reduced material and labor waste.
- Increased productivity and efficiency.
- Cross-trained employees.
- Improved employee morale.

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Improved utilization of space to create a cleaner, more organized facility.

Testimonial:

“After participating in the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network's Lean 101 class, I decided that [it] was a valuable tool for giving me and my staff an understanding of the principles of lean, how to apply them, and to experience some of the team building techniques. Now that we have begun our “lean journey,” and with the support of the Network, I am experiencing the positive impact these changes are making on my operations.”

Robert Hall, Jr., Vice President